



TESTIMONY ON MICHIGAN HB 4168
Presented by Vicki Deisner, Midwest Legislative Director
Before the Senate Local Government and Elections Committee
Wednesday, February 12, 2014

Chairman Robertson, Majority Vice-Chair Meekhof, Minority Vice-Chair Young and distinguished members of the Senate Local Government and Elections Committee, I am Vicki Deisner, the Midwest Legislative Director for the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA). The ASPCA, founded in 1866, is the first humane organization established in the Americas and serves as the nation's leading voice for animal welfare. The ASPCA's mission is to provide effective means for the prevention of cruelty to animals throughout the United States. As part of our national effort to assist local anti-cruelty efforts on the ground, the ASPCA provides grants to local communities. In fact, over the last several years we have awarded over \$600,000 to communities throughout Michigan. On behalf of our approximately 2.5 million members and supporters, including over 60,000 Michigan citizens, we respectfully urge the Senate Local Government and Elections Committee to support HB 4168 – a bill that would end the unnecessary killing of unlicensed dogs.

The ASPCA supports the changes HB 4168 would make to Section 17 (MCL 287.277) as amended by 1998 PA 980 that would eliminate the requirement that unlicensed dogs be euthanized. This section of the law dates back to 1919 when society viewed the treatment of companion animals differently. Today, communities have shelters and rescues that provide for companion animals in the effort to relocate them with their owners or find new owners that will care for the animals and provide a forever home. The ASPCA also support the efforts of HB 4168 to put into place the necessary proceedings to enforce the requirement for dogs to be licensed. It is sound public policy to both help a lost dog find its way back home and be able to trace the medical history of lost dogs, including rabies vaccinations.

For all of these reasons, the ASPCA respectfully urges the Senate Local Government and Elections Committee to support HB 4168. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Vicki Deisner, Esq.
State Legislative Director, Midwest Region
ASPCA
vicki.deisner@aspca.org

